

a pathway conducting said drying medium sequentially through said heating unit, said drying unit and said feedstock gasification unit.

7. (Twice Amended) The system of Claim 6 wherein a pathway recycles at least a portion of said nitrogen [inert gas] between said drying unit and said gasification unit.

### REMARKS

#### 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 6 and 8/6 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Schiffers on the grounds that "inert gas" can be read to include exhaust gases including mostly CO<sub>2</sub> and water vapor. Based on this clarifications, claims 6 and 8/6 are now reworded to expressly claim the "inert gas" as nitrogen. This amendments also resolve the objections with respect to claims 7 and 8/7.

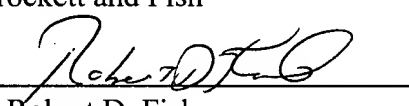
### REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 are pending in this application. The applicant acknowledges the office having determined that claims 2-4 and 10-12 are deemed to be allowable. Having specifically addressed all of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action, the applicant requests allowance of all pending claims. Since this is a final office action, and the examiner and applicant are very close to agreement, it is also requested that the examiner contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Crockett and Fish

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By

  
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